

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

ANTS usually live but one season. A BREED of solid-hoofed pigs is said to exist in Texas. NEARLY half the American leather exported goes to Germany. AN ORANGE twig at Waldo, Florida, grew nine perfect oranges, all united. PITTSBURG, Pa., produces more than half the glass made in the United States. NEARLY all birds that nest in holes, either in the ground or in trees, lay white eggs. A THERMOMETER buried four inches deep in the sand of South Africa will rise to 159°.

ROCK crystal, being found abundantly in Brazil, is known commercially as Brazilian pebble. AN OXALIS, growing in Angola, Africa, is so sensitive that its leaves close on the approach of footsteps.

THE German florin was originally a gold coin worth \$2.50. When abolished it was forty cents' worth of silver. A PLANTER of South Carolina has over 1,000 tea plants. Some of them are six feet high, and over ten feet in circumference.

PARIAN marble was obtained from Mount Marpesia, on the island of Paros, and was sometimes called Marpesian marble.

THERE are no fewer than sixty-three varieties of the common bramble classified and named by botanists as being found in England.

BELGIAN miners can perform a large amount of work almost without food, their strength being maintained by their habitual use of coffee.

THE custom of throwing a shoe after a bride comes from the Jewish custom of handing a shoe to a purchaser of land after the completion of the bargain.

THE edible oyster attains its full growth only in the waters of the American coast, and its representative in Great Britain dwindles down to a small, coppery-flavored bivalve.

It is said of the wives of a Zulu king that they were never permitted to stand up while their lord and master was in the house, but moved about on their hands and knees.

SEVERAL small living sea-fish have been sent by mail on a four days' journey. They were packed in damp seaweed, and all but one survived the trip and came out in good condition.

FROM the dissection of fifty lions in Algeria, it was found that the lungs of twenty were affected, one-half of them were almost gone, showing the prevalence of consumption among them.

Hunting Up a Pedigree.

I live in a small country parish of 194 inhabitants, and our parish register dates from 1630. A young American gentleman came to my friend the Rector, and said that it had only come to his knowledge two days previous that it was from this village that his father's grandfather emigrated to America about the year 1750, and there laid the foundation for the present wealth of his descendants. The gentleman, with a party of fourteen, had been fifteen months away from New York, visiting the chief places of the Continent, the Holy Land, Egypt, &c., and ending up with the principal sights in England and Scotland; and they were to embark from Liverpool on the following morning. He had traveled specially to this little village. Would the Rector be good enough to refer to the parish registers, and see if his ancestors were therein mentioned? The Rector did so—the ancestors were there found in regular descent, from the very beginning of the register—and the gentleman, in less than two hours' time, was set up with a pedigree dating back two and a half centuries, which he said he should have drawn up in heraldic fashion, and which doubtless now adorns some room in his American home. It was evident that the ancestors were of the humblest class, as in another book mention of "Goody"—was frequently made as being the recipient of a tenpenny charity. But the surname happens to correspond with one in the English Baronetage, and while the Rector was transcribing the numerous registers the American gentleman was busy copying from DeBrett the coat of arms of the Baronet in question, bloody hand and all. I regret to add that the Rector never received a sixpence for his trouble, though he might have charged a heavy sum in fees; but he was restoring his church, and he left it to the American gentleman to give some donation for that purpose, either in money or in the form of a stained-glass window or other memorial to his ancestors.—Notes and Queries.

—Historians generally agree that General Washington's death was caused by a cold contracted by exposure while riding on horseback on a cold December day. Mrs. Young, the last surviving child of Washington's steward, Anderson, herself just deceased, related recently how Washington's death might have been averted. It is true that he caught the cold referred to and returned home; but he was then summoned to give instructions about the completion of a boat, and while standing without hat or overcoat on the banks of the Potomac, the chilling blasts increased the cold, which proved fatal.

—Pride that dines on vanity sups on contempt.

NOTICE.

ON account of my continued ill health, I have concluded, as soon as practicable, to retire from the dry goods trade, and now offer my entire stock for sale to any merchant wishing to engage in the business, and will from the 1st day of July sell my goods FOR CASH, until disposed of, which will enable me to offer to the retail trade some special bargains. All persons knowing themselves indebted to me will please call and settle at once, as I am anxious to square my books. Respectfully,
H. G. SMOOT.
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Ice Cream for sale by the gallon or half gallon. Wedding Parties furnished on short notice. my9

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